

U. S. A.
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.
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2250 to 2253, 2283, 2299 to 2304, 2308 to 2310, 2313, 2328, 2329,
2374, 2375, 2378, 2379, 2634, 2635.

Notes on the food of Birds of Prey.

Cathartes aura.

Corvus hudsonius.

Accipiter velox.

I have seen them hunting flickers in pairs at Highland Falls. On April 26, 1878, at Highland Falls, N.Y., I saw one trying to capture a Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla) that cried loudly and escaped by darting into a dense tangle of cat-brier.

No. 4239. Ft. Verde, Ariz. Oct. 10, 1885. ♂ juv. Hunting Gambel's Partridge when shot

No. 4340 ♂ juv. do do do

No. 4339. ♀ ad. Ft. Verde, Arizona. Dec. 23, 1885. "Its crop was filled with small birds' flesh and bones, but contained no hair or feathers.

No. " 4369. Accipiter fasciatus ♀ juv. This bird had just finished nearly plucking a Gambel's Quail, and began to eat it, when I came along and flushed it from the margin of the sluice. It flew about 50 yards across the stream and alighted with the Quail still in its claws, as I found it when shot. This shows a great deal of strength in so small a bird!

Accipiter cooperi.

At Highland Falls, N.Y., on May 1, 1878, I climbed to an old nest of Cooper's Hawk, "which was placed in the triple fork of a very tall oak-tree, having been used last year. It was filled with bones - chiefly those of small birds (Bonasa umbellus, etc.), the smaller ones having worked deep into the interstices of the sticks of which the nest was built. I gathered many of these bones, which I will presently identify."

Under Cyptonyx montezumae (p. 132 of my Journal of a trip to the San Francisco & Mogollon Mts., Ariz., in May and June, 1887) is the following: "We have only seen one pair at the Mormon Lake. Sergeant Slipp flushed them, when a Hawk (Accipiter cooperi) caught one and carried it off. The Sergeant shot at it twice with his rifle, but it escaped, and carried its dainty meat with it."

(Date about May 30, 1887.)

No. 4202 ^{♂ juv.} Sept. 9, 1885, Ft. Verde, Ariz. was eating a Gambel's Partridge (Colaptes gambeli) when shot.

Accipiter atricapillus.

Accipiter atricapillus striatus.

Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi.

Buteo borealis.

"This handsome Hawk feeds on mice, moles and shrews, which it finds in meadows. Though it likes to sit on a hay-pole and swoop down upon such small prey, it is often quite formidable, carrying off fowls from barn-yards. It is able to capture even the Ruffed Grouse (Bonasa umbellus).

I once saw a Red-tail fly a quarter of a mile, bearing a fully-grown Ruffed Grouse in its claws. I followed, and fired a shot at it, which caused it to let its prey drop to the ground from the tree where it was feeding; it afterwards appeared to regret leaving the Grouse, which was neatly pickled, and had one side of the breast partly eaten [Journal, Vol. I, p. 121.]

Buteo borealis calurus.

Buteo abbreviatus.

In Arizona, I found them feeding on fish, and shot specimens whose stomachs contained lizards and frogs.

Buteo Swainsoni.

No. 4821 ♀ ad. (breeding). Ft. Verde, Arizona. May 1, 1886, had eaten a large lizard () ad several Horned Toads () shortly before I shot her.

Buteo latissimus.

It feeds on small quadrupeds and salamanders. None of the numerous specimens dissected contained feathers, or other evidence of its feeding on birds.

In the spring of 1871, I examined a nest in a woods near my house at Highland Falls, N.Y., which contained half-grown young. Numerous pieces of skin and tails of the Red Squirrel (Sciurus hudsonius) attested its destructiveness to that quadruped.

Urubitinga anthracina.

One was seen eating a fish on the sandy margin of the Verde River, in Arizona.

Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis.

Archibuteo ferrugineus.

Aquila chrysaetos.

About 1875, a Golden Eagle was shot, at Cold Spring, on the Hudson River, New York, in the act of killing a goose belonging to the farmer who shot the Eagle.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus.

In the Hudson Highlands, its food consists almost entirely of fishes, except during the coldest winter weather, when they are unattainable. I have proof of its capturing gold-~~fish~~^{fish} (*Carassius auratus*), common sucker (*Catostomus teres*).

Falco mexicanus.

No. 4371 Immature.

"Stomach crammed with birds - Gopherus, Harpotyphus, etc."

Falco peregrinus anatum.

No. 2100, ♀ juv. Oct. 6, 1880. Sayville, Long Island New York. There were several Duck Hawks on the beach, preying on small birds. The specimen shot had been feeding on various small birds, which had first been roughly picked, and swallowed in large pieces. Whole legs of the Robin, Alice's Thrush, Palbird, and Warblers were found in its crop.

Fort Verde, Arizona. Sept. 3, 1885. "I followed a Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax naevius) for some time, but it would not permit me to get within range. At length it flew, and a Duck Hawk (F. p. anatum) started in pursuit from an adjacent cliff, and easily overtook and clutched it, whereupon the poor heron croaked fearfully, and fell into the water, but swam ashore and flew away before I could reach it. The Hawk evidently had no use for Mycteria, as Teal were plentiful, and only chased and scared it for amusement. The Hawk twice alighted upon the ground beside the Verde River.

Falco columbarius.

No. 2085, ♀ juv. September 16, 1880. Shot at Highland Falls,
New York, in the act of destroying a hen belonging to
Mr. William Faurot.

Falco richardsonii.

Falco sparverius.

On February 18, 1879, Dr. Clinton L. Bagg saw a Sparrow Hawk at the foot of 110th Street, at the East River in New York City, where it seemed to be chasing the House Sparrows (Passer domesticus). It was in no wise frightened at the numerous workmen about the docks, and flew about amongst them, and out over the river, frequently perching on some iron pillars on shore.

Another Sparrow Hawk was seen hunting European Sparrows in ¹⁸⁸¹ Central Park, New York City, on April 17, (1881) No. 4713. ^{April 1886} Its feet and claws were covered with blood & feathers of Zenaidura intermedia. "This is the first instance of its killing birds for food that I remember to have noted."

"One that I shot on April 8th (No. 4720) flew from a cottonwood tree to the top of another tall one one hundred (100) yards distant, bearing in its claws a Robin (T. m. propinqua), partly plucked and decapitated without apparent inconvenience. They frequent especially the vicinity of streams, and are the terror of Doves and Gambel's Partridge."

Polyborus cheriway.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.

Strix pratineola.

Fort Verde, Ariz., July 29, 1885. "The burrow was neatly excavated, roomy, and perfectly level upon the bottom, which was strewn with pellets of bones, hair (and feathers?).

Fort Verde, Arizona. July 30, 1885. "Visited the Owls' nest. * * * * The bottom of the cavity was covered with pellets containing bones of such small quadrupeds as Thomomys talpoides unicolor, Tamias harrisi and Neotoma, together with a quantity of hair, and feathers of small birds.

Asio wilsonianus.

Asio accipitrinus.

Syrnium nebulosum.

Nyctala acadica.

Megascops asio

"One winter was famous for its Screech Owls (Scops asio), which infested Washington Square, and waged war upon the European Sparrows."

Megascops asio trichopsis

Bubo virginianus.

Bubo virginianus subarcticus.

At Peck's Lake, a noted hunting-ground, 20 miles northwest of Fort Verde, Arizona, I was told that this Owl kills and eats a great many wounded ducks, that have been maimed by gunners.

Nyctea nyctea.

No. 815, ♂ ad., December 1, 1875. Shot on the south side of Long Island, New York, by Wm. Birch. Its stomach was distended with feathers.

No. 2108, ♂ ad., Oct. 29, 1880, near Garden City, Long Island, N.Y.
Stomach entirely empty.

Scolyto cuneilaria hypogaea.

Glaucidium gnoma.

No. 4698
♂[♂] Fossil Creek, Ariz. March 29, 1886
"Stomach contained several lizards only.

Glaucidium phalaenoides.



